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Figure S1. Schematic of the reflectance cell



(a)



(b)





(d)

Figure S2. (a) The thermogravimetric response of 55.5 mg of CeO₂, heated in 40 cm³ min⁻¹ flowing N₂ at 5°C min⁻¹ from room temperature to 600 °C (Run 1). The sample was held at 600 °C for 10 minutes and then cooled at 5°C min⁻¹ to room temperature. (b) & (c) The m/z = 18, 32 and 44 responses recorded during the first and second heating cycles (Runs 1 and 2, respectively) of the sample in (a): the m/z = 32 responses are enhanced by a factor of 3 and the m/z = 44 responses by a factor of 10. (d) The m/z = 18, 32 and 44 responses recorded during the third heating of the sample in (a), Run 3. Run 1 was carried out on day 1 and the sample left in air overnight. Run 2 was carried out on day 2 and the sample left in flowing nitrogen overnight and run 3 carried out the following day.



Figure S3. Spectra showing the CO spectral region collected at temperatures > 300° C from sample D2 during the experiment depicted in Figs. 3(a) - (d) with the spectrum collected at 300° C subtracted. Also shown is the spectrum of CO at 600° C modelled using Spectralcalc, see text for details.







(b)







Figure S4. The plots in Figs. 4(a) - (d) normalised to their maximum values and plotted according to sample.



Figure S5. Spectra collected (a) after 8 minutes and (b) after 20 minutes during experiments carried out at 16W input power and using a nitrogen+IPA feed at a total flow rate of 30 cm³ min⁻¹ with CeO₂ or Macor as the dielectric in the plasma reflectance cell. In (a) the analogous spectra collected after 1 minute were subtracted, and in (b) the spectra collected after 8 minutes were subtracted. The spectra were offset down as indicated to facilitate comparison.



Figure S6. Plots of the 1750 and 1666 cm⁻¹ bands in Fig. 5 as a function of time.